



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

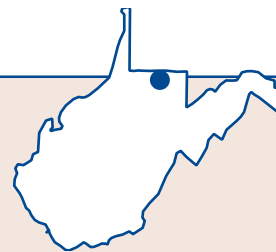
West Virginia University Research Corporation, Northern West Virginia

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The West Virginia University Research Corporation was selected to receive a job training grant. The grant will focus on northern West Virginia communities impacted by brownfields, particularly the communities



Job Training Grant

\$161,505 □

EPA has selected the West Virginia University Research Corporation for a job training grant, which will be administered by the University's Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center. The center plans to train 80 students and place at least 48 graduates in entry-level environmental technician jobs. Graduates will be tracked for one year. The center plans to provide 106 hours of course work, including HAZWOPER, OSHA construction safety, disaster site worker training, site assessment methods, lead and asbestos abatement, and gas well leak control. Students will be recruited primarily from among disadvantaged residents of northern West Virginia communities impacted by brownfields. Disadvantaged women and youth will be recruited through partnerships developed with West Virginia Women Work and YouthBuild. The Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board and area trade councils will assist with placing graduates in environmental jobs.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team
215-814-3246
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: West Virginia University
Research Corporation, WV
304-293-2867

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

of Fairmont, Clarksburg, Parkersburg, and Wheeling. The state's mountainous terrain and historic isolation from major metropolitan centers has contributed to a lack of economic diversification. Natural resource extraction and steel production industries are declining, leaving mine-scarred lands, closed manufacturing facilities, and other brownfields in rural locations and urban centers. Wages in West Virginia lag behind national averages in all sectors except the declining manufacturing and mining sectors. Poverty rates in northern West Virginia counties range from 13 percent to almost 20 percent. The Governor and state Development Office are ramping up community-based initiatives to restore environmental liabilities and turn them into community assets. These initiatives not only are creating new environmental jobs, but also are changing public preferences for a cleaner environment, which will continue to create environmental jobs in the long term.